

# Sikaritai language

**Sikaritai** (Sikwari) is a [Lakes Plain language of Papua, Indonesia](#). It is named after *Sikari* village in Rafaer District, Mamberamo Raya Regency. Alternate names are *Aikwakai*, *Araikurioko*, *Ati*, *Tori*, *Tori Aikwakai*.

It is spoken in Haya, Iri, and Sikari villages.<sup>[3]</sup>

Sikaritai, [Obokuitai](#), and [Eritai](#) constitute a [dialect cluster](#).

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<b>Sikaritai</b>	
Tori Aikwakai	
<b>Native to</b>	Indonesia
<b>Region</b>	<i>Sikari</i> village in Rafaer District, Mamberamo Raya Regency, Papua
<b>Native speakers</b>	(800 cited 1993) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Lakes Plain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Central</li> <li>▪ <b>Sikaritai</b></li> </ul>
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	tty
<b>Glottolog</b>	sika1263 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sika1263">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sika1263</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Phonology

The following discussion is based on Martin (1991).<sup>[4]</sup>

## Consonants

	Labial	Coronal	Velar
<b>Stop</b>	b	t d	k kʷ
<b>Fricative</b>	ɸ	s	
<b>Approximant</b>	w		

This small consonant inventory is typical of [Lakes Plain languages](#).<sup>[5]</sup> The complete lack of [nasals](#) is also a feature of these languages.

There are however several notable [allophonic](#) variants:

- /d/ is realized as [d ~ l] word-initially, [r ~ l] between vowels or following another consonants, and as [d] syllable-finally.
- /k/ is realized as [χ] syllable-finally. When followed by a vowel, the sequence /ik/ is realized as a syllabic fricative [χ̩]. The sequence /iko/ further varies with [u.o].
- [ɸ] is in free variation with a glottal fricative [h].
- /s/ is realized as [ʃ] following /k/.

- /i/ before another vowel is realized as either a semivowel [j] or an affricate [dʒ] (the latter when following /k/ or when between two low vowels (/ɛ/ or /a/).

## Vowels

Sikaritai has six vowels.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid-high	e		
Mid	ɛ		o
Low		a	

Many other Lakes Plain languages have developed a series of extra high "fricativized" vowels from the loss of a final consonant.<sup>[5]</sup> In Sikaritai the final consonants have been retained; however, extra-high [i] and [u] appear as allophones of /i/ and /u/ before final /g/ and /d/. Martin postulates that Sikaritai is in the process of developing contrastive fricativized vowels as other Lakes Plain languages have done.

## Tone

The language has a two-height tone system with H and L tone. More than one tonal element can appear on a single syllable.

## Syllables

The syllable template is (C)(C)V(V)(C).

## References

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1. [Sikaritai](https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tty/) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tty/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Sikaritai" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sika1263>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Eberhard, David M.; Simons, Gary F.; Fennig, Charles D., eds. (2019). "Indonesia languages" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/country/ID/languages>). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (22nd ed.). Dallas: [SIL International](#).
4. Martin, David (1991). "Sikaritai phonology". *Workpapers in Indonesian Languages and Cultures*. 9: 91–120.
5. Clouse, Duane (1997). "Toward a reconstruction and reclassification of the Lakes Plain languages of Irian Jaya". *Papers in Papuan Linguistics*. 3: 133–236.

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